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ABSTRACT

Since its inception in India in 1962, distance education has grown in popularity. The Distance Education Council (DEC) directs distance learning within India's higher education system. The DEC's promotion, coordination, and maintenance of standards for distance education are its three major roles. Its initiatives include grants, support for technology, quality assurance measures, development of standards and guidelines for degree programs, and technical assistance for new open universities. Collaboration programs at the national and international level also exist, and focus on such topical areas as MEA degrees, B.Ed. degrees, self-assessment of the open university system, and information and data exchange. Areas for future activity are listed and include the development of an open education network, technical assistance to state government, audio-visual support, research project support, Web-based initiatives, quality assurance measures, database support, and transformation of correspondence study programs into distance education programs. A listing of open universities and institutions offering correspondence programs is provided, as well as a map of India indicating locations of open and distance education institutions. (HB)

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Distance Education Council

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DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

EMERGENCE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The distance education system has been gaining widespread popularity over the years. By widening access to higher education, the distance mode provides an opportunity to all those who are unable to pursue higher education through the traditional system.

From the nineteen sixties to nineteen nineties, there has been a phenomenal growth in the distance education system all over the world. More than 70 countries are offering educational programmes through distance mode today.

In India, since Independence, the number of students enrolled in higher education has risen from about 0.2 million to about 6 million. This six million represents a meagre 6% of India's young population.

Open Universities today, are the prime avenues for imparting education through the distance mode. All the aspects necessary for making the system amenable to self-learning and learner friendly are incorporated in the system for serving the isolated distance learner.

With the evolution of new methodologies in teaching and learning, and the aid of innovative and diverse channels for learning, the distance education can be a boon in providing access to the spatially and geographically disadvantaged.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

The distance / open education system aims to :

- provide an opportunity for education to all aspirants including those in service, women, adults, handicapped, from remote places etc.
- allow self-paced learning.
- provide innovative and flexible education,
- provide cost-effective education,
- provide learning materials that are self explanatory, user friendly and appropriate for the target group,
- provide opportunity for a number of diverse courses - Professional, Technical, Vocational and General,
- cater to the needs of certification, education, knowledge, skill upgradation etc.,
- provide regular counselling and other appropriate learning support through networks of study centres, and last but not the least, to
- incorporate new technologies, satellite communications, networking, internet, e-mail etc. for easy access to learners.

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DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Distance Education Council (DEC) is established under Statute 28 of IGNOU, under Section 25 of IGNOU Act, 1985. The DEC became operational in 1992. Its mandate is to function as an apex body of distance education in India for the promotion, maintenance of standards and coordination of open and distance education in India. The National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) and the Programme of Action (POA, 1992) also give stress to the role of the DEC.

In India, distance education started in the form of correspondence education in the year 1962. The first open university came into existence in 1982. At present, there are ten open universities - one National Open University, the IGNOU(1985), and nine State Open Universities (SOUs) in India. Of the 229 university level traditional institutions, 62 are dual mode institutions. The latter, through their Correspondence Course Institutions (CCIs) impart education through correspondence/distance mode.

The DEC, since its inception, is supporting SOUs. From the Ninth Plan onwards the CCIs that were earlier being supported by the UGC are being supported by the DEC.

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DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

THE ORGANISATION

The DEC is a statutory authority of IGNOU consisting of 15 members. The Vice Chancellor of IGNOU is its Ex-officio Chairman. The members of the Council include the Union Education Secretary, Secretary of University Grants Commission (UGC), a member of the UGC, Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), two members of the Board of Management, two Vice Chancellors of SOUs, two Directors of CCIs, three nominees of the Visitor and a teacher from the distance education system. The Director, Distance Education Council is the Secretary of the Council. The Secretariat of the DEC consisting of a Director, a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors and a complement of supporting staff, is involved in policy implementation.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

THE ROLE

The objectives of the DEC are as delineated below :

DEC

- **promote** the open and distance education system in the country
- **coordinate** the open and distance education system in the country
- ensure the **maintenance of standards** in the education provisions made by the open and distance education

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

THE ACTIVITIES

Promotion

- Preparation of norms and standards/guidelines for support to SOUs and CCIs
- Dissemination of information
- Assistance for establishment of new State Open Universities
- Support to SOUs for Student Support Services.

Coordination

- Funding for downlink facility, for Wide Area Network (WAN) and Local Area Network (LAN). Support in training and development of communication channel networks
- Development of database on Open Universities in India
- Identification of Common Pool of Courses and Programmes for sharing by distance education institutions
- Technical assistance to SOUs for adoption of Credit System and Common Grading Pattern for Student Evaluation

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Maintenance of Standards

- Provision of financial support to SOUs and CCIs for infrastructure development (mainly for equipment)
- Provision of support to CCIs for transformation of course material to distance mode(self learning material)
- Provision of grants for human resource development to SOUs
- Provision of research grants to SOUs and CCIs
- Support to SOUs and CCIs for application of new technologies
- Support for audio-visual facilities
- Establishment of Quality Assurance Mechanisms
- Formulation of norms and guidelines for offering programmes of study through distance mode viz., M.B.A., B.Ed., B.C.A., M.C.A., B.Lib., B.Sc. (Nursing).

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

COLLABORATIONS

The different collaborations of the DEC on national and international level are as follows

- DEC-COL collaboration is continuing since its inception on a number of fronts like exchange of information, data on distance education and quality concepts.
- AICTE-DEC collaboration for recognition of MBA programmes offered through distance mode.
- NCTE-DEC collaboration for devising norms for recognition of B.Ed programme offered through distance mode.
- NAAC-DEC are in the process of evolving strategies for self assessment of the open university system.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

THRUST AREAS OF PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- Development of open education network
- Consultations to State Governments and Technical Assistance for establishment of new State Open Universities
- Development of promotional material (Print, Audio-Video etc.) on distance education
- Award of Research Projects on identified thrust areas in distance education
- Web-based Education Fellowships for technical competence for Distance Education staff
- Development of norms and standards for maintenance of standards of programmes offered through distance mode and other quality assurance measures
- Strengthening of database on open and distance education system
- Transformation of correspondence programmes into 'distance education programmes through judicious use of multiple channels of self-instruction

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

1. Indira Gandhi National Open University
   Maidan Garhi,
   New Delhi-110068, India.

2. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University
   Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills
   Hyderabad-500033
   Andhra Pradesh, India.

3. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra
   Open University
   Dnyangangotri, Near Gangapur Dam
   Nashik-422005
   Maharashtra, India.

4. Kota Open University
   Rawat Bhata Road, Akhelgarh
   Kota-324010
   Rajasthan, India.

5. Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar Open University
   Govt. Bungalow No. 9
   Dafnala, Shahi Baug
   Ahmedabad-380 003
   Gujarat, India.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

6. Nalanda Open University
   S.K. Puri,
   Patna-800001
   Bihar, India.

7. M.P. Bhoj (Open) University
   Red Cross Bhavan,
   Shivaji Nagar,
   Bhopal- 462016
   Madhya Pradesh, India.

8. Karnataka State Open University
   Manasa Gangotri,
   Mysore–570006
   Karnataka, India.

9. Netaji Subhas Open University
   1, Woodburn Park,
   Calcutta-700020
   West Bengal, India.

10. U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open Univeristy
    17, Maharishi Dayanand Marg,
    Allahabad- 211001,
    Uttar Pradesh, India.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

INSTITUTIONS OFFERING CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

University / Institution :	State
1. Alagappa University	Tamil Nadu
2. Andhra University	Andhra Pradesh
3. Annamalai University	Tamil Nadu
4. Awadhesh Pratap Singh University	Madhya Pradesh
5. Bangalore University	Karnataka
6. Barkatullah Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
7. Berhampur University	Orissa
8. Bharathiar University	Tamil Nadu
9. Bharathidasan University	Tamil Nadu
10. Birla Institute of Tech and Sci	Rajasthan
11. Central Institute of English and Foreign Language	Andhra Pradesh
12. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
13. Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
14. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology	Uttar Pradesh
15. Gujarat Vidyapith	Gujarat
16. Guru Ghasidas University	Madhya Pradesh

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17.	Guru Jambheshwar University	Haryana
18.	Himachal Pradesh University	Himachal Pradesh
19.	International Institute for Population Sciences	Maharashtra
20.	Jadavpur University	West Bengal
21.	Jain Vishva Bharati Institute	Rajasthan
22.	Jamia Milia Islamia	New Delhi
23.	Jawaharlal Nehru Tech University	Andhra Pradesh
24.	Jiwaji University	Madhya Pradesh
25.	Kakatiya University	Andhra Pradesh
26.	Kurukshetra University	Haryana
27.	Lalit Narayan Mithila University	Bihar
28.	Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Madurai Kamaraj University	Tamil Nadu
30.	Maharishi Dayanand University	Haryana
31.	Mahatma Gandhi University	Kerala
32.	Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	Tamil Nadu
33.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University	Andhra Pradesh
34.	Mother Teresa Women's University	Tamil Nadu

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

35.	Nagarjuna University	Andhra Pradesh
36.	National Law School of India University	Karnataka
37.	North Eastern Hill University	Meghalaya
38.	Osmania University	Andhra Pradesh
39.	Punjab University	Chandigarh
40.	Patna University	Bihar
41.	Pondicherry University	Pondicherry
42.	Punjab Agricultural University	Punjab
43.	Punjabi University	Punjab
44.	Shivaji University	Maharashtra
45.	SNDT - Women's University	Maharashtra
46.	Sambalpur University	Orissa
47.	Sri Venketaswara University	Andhra Pradesh
48.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Tamil Nadu
49.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth	Maharashtra
50.	Tripura University	Tripura
51.	University of Bombay	Maharashtra
52.	University of Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
53.	University of Burdwan	West Bengal

DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL

54.	University of Calicut	Kerala
55.	University of Delhi	Delhi
56.	University of Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
57.	University of Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
58.	University of Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir
59.	University of Kerala	Kerala
60.	University of Madras	Tamil Nadu
61.	Utkal University	Orissa
62.	Vidyasagar University	West Bengal

OPEN & DISTANCE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Indira Gandhi National Open University & (22, 55)
Kota Open University, Kota
U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad & (52)
Nalanda Open University, Patna & (40)
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad & (15)
M.P. Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal & (6)
Netaji Subhas Open University, Calcutta &
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad &
Karnataka State Open University, Mysore
LEGEND
Indira Gandhi National Open University
State Open Universities
Correspondence Course Institutions
(as per number given on pages 12-15)

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